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N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s)

de Groot, et al.

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Graser, J.

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Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to:

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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

on January 11, 2005

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Sir:

In response to an Office Action mailed August 11, 2004, applicants submit herewith the following amendment and remarks for entry in the above-identified application.

Signed:

The amendment is being filed within the fifth month from the mailing date of the Office Action. Accordingly, a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time is filed currently herewith.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.